

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A 3D model similar to the specified 3D model is
retrieved from a plurality of 3D models stored as
objects to be retrieved in a database by using various
5 feature values calculated from the selected 3D model.
At that time, when at least one of the selected 3D
model and a subelement which is a part of the selected
3D model is specified as a retrieval key, the feature
values of the subelements included in the 3D model
10 specified as the retrieval key and data on information
about the relationship between the subelements are
acquired. In addition, the feature values of the
subelements included in the 3D models stored as objects
to be retrieved in the database and data on information
15 about the relationship between the subelements are
acquired. Then, the similarity between the 3D models
to be retrieved and the 3D model acting as retrieval
key is calculated using the acquired feature values
about the subelements to be retrieved, the acquired
20 data on information about the relationship between the
subelements, the acquired feature values about the
subelements of the retrieval key, and the acquired data
on information about the relationship between the
subelements. On the basis of the calculated
25 similarity, the result of retrieval is displayed.